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a. classification of subject matter IPC 7 A41B9/00 A41D A41D13/12 A61F5/24 A61F5/449 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A41B A41D A61F Documentation practiced other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category \* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Α US 4 612 674 A (HASHIMOTO KENJI) 1,3,5,7, 23 September 1986 (1986-09-23) cited in the application column 1, line 21 column 1, line 51 - column 2, line 6 column 3, line 3 - line 31; figure 4 Α US 4 671 264 A (FRANGI GIAMPIETRO V) 1 9 June 1987 (1987-06-09) column 1, line 12 - line 17 column 1, line 38 - line 39; claim 1 1,5,7 GB 410 789 A (HENRY BEACROFT) Α 22 May 1934 (1934-05-22) page 3, line 85 - line 101 page 3, line 110 - line 115 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. \* Special categories of cited documents : 'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the \*A\* document defining the general state of the land which is not considered to be of particular relevance. invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another 'Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the citation or other special reason (as specified) document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled \*O\* document reterring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but \*&\* document member of the same patent family later than the priority date claimed Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 06/04/2005 30 March 2005 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Monné, E Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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